It was a long journey, and the road we traveled was one of great difficulty—a path of harsh realities that life unexpectedly threw our way. It began in March 2006, when Bill was diagnosed with a brain stem tumor. The tumor was in such a critical area that every doctor refused to touch it. Time and again we were told that surgery was impossible due to high risk of stroke, paralysis, or death, but, without it, Bill’s life was limited. Over the next few months, Bill underwent two brain surgeries to drain cysts growing off the tumor, but both efforts only bought Bill more time. He then endured eight months of chemotherapy to try to shrink the tumor. In November 2007, the tumor had begun to hemorrhage. Bill’s time was now extremely limited. Surgery number three was Bill’s last chance for removal of the tumor—his last chance for life. Bill was given an adequate amount of opportunities not to follow through with the surgery, but instead faced his odds head-on with extreme courage and bravery and opted to follow through with the procedure. After a tedious, nine-hour surgery, Bill awoke with little deficit and with most of the tumor removed. The voyage ended then November, and Bill has moved forward with his life. He recently married his fiancée, Lauren Palmer, this October of 2008—a dream that, to both of them, seemed inevitably impossible just a few months ago, but became a reality thanks to the prayers of our family, friends, community, and people whom we do not know.

Yes, it has been a long journey, but we have finally reached our destination. Sometimes we steered, When we couldn’t, others took the wheel. Thank you to those people. To those crowds who traveled the long way to support us in hospital waiting rooms, who started prayer groups, who said and attended masses on Bill’s behalf, who sent meals, cards, and phone calls, and to those who struggled to find the right words but couldn’t; opting instead to give silent support, quietly making their presence known. All of the prayers and positive energy have made the difference and truly mean everything to us. The power of your prayers led us to the right doctor and a miracle was performed through his hands that day. Thank you to our unwavering family who has been there from the beginning experiencing these unpleasant times with us every step of the way, for without you we would be in a dark place.

A special thank you to the following:

To Lauren Palmer Cooper, for without your unfaltering courage, strength and commitment, Bill would not be here. We are extremely blessed and thankful to have you in our lives and a part of our family. To John Davis, benefit organizer, a man is not measured by the amount of trophies he has, but with the dignity by which he stands. We are eternally grateful for your loyalty and friendship. As they experienced these unpleasant times with us every step of the way, for without you we would be in a dark place. A special thank you to the following:

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- Greater Wildwood Harley Davidson Dealership, John Davis
- North Wildwood-Vol Fire Company 15th Street Optimist Club of the Wildwoods
- Piro Pizza- Anthony Piro
- Aversa Bakery- Steve D’Donato
- J&B Distributors Delux Bakery- Jerry Groff
- Restaurants: Denise
- Firehouse Tavern
- Owens Pub
- Screenrock Café
- Michael’s Bar & Grill
- Harbor Inn, Tom Quinn
- Jean Pablo’s, JP Prime, Jon Paxton
- Boardwalk Bar and Grill, Tom Salmons
- Shakers Night Club
- The City Night Club
- Mulligan’s Sports Bar
- Montego Bay- Adam Youshak
- Philadelphia Soul, Jon Sans Jovi
- Warren Distributors, Jason Depiestro
- Seaweed Marretto- Stephanie Tremble
- Kong Sports- Brendan Searra

Thank you to the following businesses, organizations, and individuals.

- Kristen Visalli
- Bolero Resort, Wally and Kathy Lerro
- Chuck & Nina Catanoso, Anthony Catanoso, Bill Catanoso, and Lenny Catanoso
- Greater Wildwood Harley Davidson Dealership, Kelly Boyd
- Sysco Foods-Ronald Golden
- Alvin Shapiro, A&A Entertainment
- Steve Manardi, Circus School
- John Lynch, Wildwood Convention Center
- North Wildwood Vol. Fire Company 15th Street Optimist Club of the Wildwoods
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To all the people that we may have missed, your thoughts and efforts are deeply appreciated.

“Remember George, no man is a failure who has friends.” ~CLARENCE O'BODY, ANGEL, 2ND CLASS, “IT’S A WONDERFUL LIFE”

Bill, Cecilia, Bill, Lauren, Brandon, Natalie, Joseph, and Trevor Cooper